

COUNTRY Korea/USSR

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT ROK Personnel Sent to the USSR

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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1. In mid-August 1950, a Taejon citizen was one of a group of Republic of Korea personnel captured by the North Korean army. He was sent to Seoul and imprisoned for ten days in West Gate Prison. Then, as a member of a party of prisoners, he was sent north on foot, via Tongduchon, Yunshon, and Wonsan, to Pyongyang; the trip required 23 days. In Pyongyang he was kept until a party of about 400 prisoners was assembled to go to the USSR.
2. The prisoners were divided into three groups according to their social and political positions.\* The groups traveled separately. Guards were assigned at the rate of one for each twenty prisoners, and they were so vigilant that it was almost impossible for the prisoners to escape. The party was informed that they were being sent to the USSR, where they would receive training and indoctrination to adjust them for work in the North Korean government when it had attained control of the entire peninsula of Korea.
3. From Pyongyang the party went to Tunghua, Manchuria, where they had three days rest before they were scheduled to go on to the USSR by train. Just before they were due to depart, three of the prisoners, on a very dark night, managed to avoid boarding the train and escaped to a nearby mountain. They were near the Tumen River, at a spot heavily guarded on the Korean side. By disguising themselves as farmers visiting friends in adjacent villages, however, they were able to enter Korea and eventually to make their way south into territory occupied by the United Nations forces.
4. Many prisoners were moved from ROK areas to Pyongyang and Kanggye, which served as holding areas until the groups could be transferred farther north. From Manchuria, large numbers were being sent to the USSR. The prisoners who escaped, however, believed that, although they had been told they were to be trained in the USSR, the actual number who would receive indoctrination and be returned to Korea would be very small. Most of the party, they felt, would be placed in Soviet labor camps and retained permanently.

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\* [REDACTED] Comment: The basis upon which the classification was made and the number of persons assigned to each category were not disclosed.

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